

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 23, 2005, has been received and carefully noted.

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claims 3, 8 and 14-17 were amended, claims 1 and 13 were canceled, and new claims 19-21 were added. No new matter was added. Accordingly, claims 3-12 and 14-21 are pending in the present application.

Allowed Claim

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 18.

Claims 3-12 and 14-17 have been amended to depend on independent claim 18, and therefore claims 3-12 and 14-17 are also allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants further appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 10-15.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gabara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,107,882, hereinafter "Gabara"). In addition, claims 1 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,655).

Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabara in view of Tichauer (U.S. Patent No. 6,784,744), and claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabara in view of Jin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,152).

As mentioned above, claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 3-7 and 16-17 are dependent on allowed claim 18. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

New Claims

New claims 19-21 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 19-21 are allowable. In particular, new claims 19-21 incorporated the allowable subject matter recited in claims 10-12, respectively.

Conclusion

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of the claims, allowance of claims 3-12 and 14-21 the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper,

may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 100021-00135.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time (two months)